

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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**May 20, 2003**

**FROM:** KEN A. MILLER, Director  
Department of Public Works – **Solid Waste Management Division**

**SUBJECT: AGREEMENT WITH KERN COUNTY TO PROVIDE REFUSE DISPOSAL  
SERVICES FOR COMMUNITIES OF FOUR CORNERS, RED MOUNTAIN,  
AND WINDY ACRES LOCATED IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve Agreement No. 03-\_\_\_\_, in the amount of \$79,002 (\$26,334 paid annually), with Kern County to accept residential and commercial solid waste from the communities of Four Corners, Red Mountain, and Windy Acres (Service Area) in San Bernardino County for disposal at Boron Sanitary Landfill, Ridgecrest Sanitary Landfill and Randsburg Transfer Station from July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2006.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** San Bernardino County does not operate a solid waste disposal facility within 15 miles of the unincorporated communities of Four Corners, Red Mountain and Windy Acres (Service Area). In order to facilitate necessary refuse disposal service and to minimize operational costs to both counties, on August 1, 2000 San Bernardino and Kern Counties entered into agreement No. 00-748. The agreement allows Kern County's disposal facilities to accept waste from the Service Area and requires San Bernardino County to make annual payments in proportion to Kern County's operational costs related to handling the Service Area's waste.

Under the existing agreement, the annual payment to Kern County is \$22,743. San Bernardino County is required to pay \$57.00 for each of the 299 improved single-family residential parcels identified in the County Assessor's records. In addition, Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD) negotiated with Kern County to include payment for an additional 100 parcels, recognizing that improvements currently in process or planned for the future have not yet been identified in the Assessor's record. The agreement also stipulates that the annual payments will increase or decrease in proportion to Kern County's operation costs, though this has never happened. The three-year term of the agreement ends on June 30, 2003.

Since the existing agreement became effective, Kern County's operational costs have increased due to changes in state and federal regulatory requirements pertaining to environmental protection and waste diversion. Effective July 1, 2003, Kern County's annual disposal fees will be \$36.00 per ton, which equates to \$66.00 per house, \$66.00 per mobile home, and \$53.00 for each residential unit with four or more units in multi-unit residential use codes. The County's annual payment beginning in Fiscal-Year 2003/2004 will be \$26,334. The proposed agreement does not contain a provision for annual adjustments of this payment.

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

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Residential customers will not be charged a gate fee for disposal of residential waste at the Boron Sanitary and Ridgecrest Sanitary Landfills and Randsburg Transfer Station. In addition, Kern County will charge their current tipping fee of \$29.00/ton for commercial, industrial, construction and demolition wastes. Other non-residential waste will be charged at Kern County's established fees (\$1.00 for passenger tires, and \$100.00/ton for larger tires and bulk loads).

Approval of this agreement will provide San Bernardino County with a cost effective means to meet the waste disposal needs of the Service Area communities. The cost of the proposed contract with Kern County will be covered by the land use fees the County collects on improved single-family residential parcels within the Service Area.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** This item was reviewed by Robert L. Jocks Deputy County Counsel on May 6, 2003 and the County Administrative Office (Tom Forster, Administrative Analyst) on May 10, 2003.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** This action will have no impact on the General Fund. The cost of the agreement is three (3) annual payments of \$26,334 (totaling \$79,002) and is included in SWMD's proposed Fiscal Year 2003/2004 operations budget: Fund: EAA Dept: SWM Org: SWM Appr: 200 Object: 2445.

**COST REDUCTION REVIEW:** The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and concurs with the Department's proposal and recommends this action based on the following: The cost for the County to design and build a new disposal facility to serve the Service Area residents would be cost prohibitive and substantially exceed the cost of the proposed contract. Kern County's facilities are closer in proximity to the Service Area than are the County's current facilities and provides the residents a more convenient and cost effective option for refuse disposal.

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S):** First

**PRESENTER:** Peter H. Wulfman, 386-8703